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SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF
THE ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA IN WASHINGTON, DC



April 21, 2009

SAUDI ARABIA-U.S. RELATIONS

King Abdullah holds meeting with U.S. Middle East Special Envoy

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on Sunday received at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell and his accompanying delegation.

FOREIGN POLICY

Kingdom recognizes Kosovo independence

Saudi Arabia on Monday recognized the Republic of Kosovo, which declared its independence from Serbia on February 17, 2008. In a statement announcing the decision, the Foreign Ministry stated: "In line with the existing religious and cultural bonds with the people of Kosovo, and in respect to the will of the people of Kosovo to obtain independence, the Kingdom announces its recognition of the Republic of Kosovo, and hopes that this development will positively contribute to enhancing security and stability of Kosovo and its neighboring countries."

FOREIGN AID

Kingdom presents UNRWA with \$1.2 million

Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Fahd Alzaid presented a check in the amount of \$1.2 million to Karen AbuZayd, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The \$1.2 million is part of Saudi Arabia's contribution to the regular budget of the UNRWA. In a statement to *Saudi Press Agency*, Ambassador Alzaid said that Saudi Arabia is one of the main donors to UNRWA and stressed the importance of the role played by UNRWA in serving the needs of the Palestinian refugees.

Last month, the Kingdom provided a \$600,000 additional support for UNRWA's projects in the Occupied Territories.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Saudi Arabia ratifies Arab Charter on Human Rights

The Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the Arab League, Ambassador Ahmed Kattan, has handed over the Kingdom's instrument of ratification to join the

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Arab Charter on Human Rights to Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa. The Arab Charter on Human Rights was approved by the 24th Arab Summit held in Tunisia in 2004.



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